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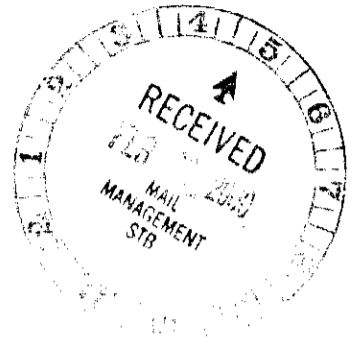
B. SCHULTZ COMPANY

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February 28, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

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Dear Sir:

B. Schultz Company is a small, privately owned firm which buys, processes and sells scrap iron and metals. Our markets include consumers located locally, within the state of Iowa, and surrounding states. We also broker material on the East Coast. I am writing you in order to comment on the proposed merger of the Canadian National Railway and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.

Canadian National's recent acquisition of the Illinois Central (IC), which serves our company locally through the Chicago Central (CC), has had little impact regarding the customer service and efficiency we previously experienced. Our concern continues to be on service. We are not concerned with the timing of this merger, but rather, the prospect that this merger will affect the service which we are currently accustomed to receiving.

Our company supports the Surface Transportation Board in its efforts to determine whether the proposed CN-BNSF merger is good for shippers. We also encourage the board to base its findings on the merits of this particular combination and not on the results of previous similar transactions made by other railroad companies. While we are aware of problems with other mergers, as noted above, the CN-IC union had no negative impact.

We are certain that the processes used to evaluate railroad transactions by the Surface Transportation Board are more than sufficient to protect the public interest. We are hoping that the board is not influenced by any factors other than whether the combination of these two railroad companies can provide the service that businesses such as ourselves can depend on.

Sincerely,

B. Schultz Company

C.F. Johnson
President

CFJ:mw



SHEET STEEL & STRUCTURALS — IRON & STEEL SCRAP — NON-FERROUS METALS